Male staff in SBI, Parliament House Annexe Branch

877. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SBI, branch in Parliament House Annexe, was specifically opened as a ladies branch;

(b) whether Government have changed the status of this branch;

(c) if not, the reasons for posting the male staff in the said branch; and

(d) by when the said branch would specifically be converted into ladies branch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that its Parliament House Annexe Branch was initially opened as a ladies branch, on an experimental basis and was later changed to a regular branch.

(c) As this is a regular branch, male staff are posted at the branch.

(d) SBI has no proposal to convert the branch into a ladies branch, at present.

Simplification of FDI approval procedure

878. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in September, 2004, Government simplified the FDI approval procedure to attract more FDI in the country;

(b) whether Government have not simplified the transfer of shares in financial services sector by a resident to a non-resident; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has simplified foreign investment procedures in September, 2004, so as to make investment in India more attractive for foreign investors.

(b) and (c) FDI proposals concerning transfer of shares from resident